



Florida Department of Health
Alachua County Health Department
2014 ANNUAL REPORT
To the Community

Florida Department of Health—Alachua County: Accomplishments

Clinical Care

More than 13% of Alachua County residents received services from the Florida Department of Health in Alachua County (FDOH-Alachua), with over 34,000 active clients accessing more than 290,000 services in health care.

School attendance was supported with clinical services provided by 14 FDOH-Alachua nurses in 12 area schools. Out of 30,241 student visits to these clinics, fully 90% (27,304) of the issues were resolved and students returned to class that day.

Obesity rates were cut in half among participants in the Diabetes Case Management Program, funded by the Low Income Pool Grant (LIP). Simultaneously, those with a desirable HbA1c (blood sugar) measurement at or below the goal level increased from 14% to 55%. These participants are now at a lower risk of experiencing renal failure, blindness or amputation.

Service area was expanded and limited access to healthcare mitigated through the opening of a clinic location in southwest Gainesville. Operating two days per week from a temporary trailer, the Southwest Clinic will move to its permanent home and fulltime clinic hours in March 2015.

Environmental Health

Environmental Health (EH) programs minimized exposure to disease-causing vectors through regulatory inspections, investigations, environmental surveillance. These activities, totaling 11,191 services in 2014, effectively reduced risks to the citizens and visitors of Alachua County and surrounding areas.

An Environmental Health Success Story

In September of 2014, the FDOH-Alachua EH team responded to citizen concerns about the safety of well water in the vicinity of a sink hole developing at the bottom of a retention pond in a southwest Gainesville neighborhood. Potential for contamination was high, and the EH team worked with the area home owners association to notify and educate residents. A bacteriological survey began immediately, with water sampling conducted through the FDOH-Alachua NELAC certified lab. A total of 66 wells were tested, with seven showing positive for *E. coli*. All area residents were educated on “boil water” procedure, and surveillance continued into November, when the contamination cleared. Over 240 water samples were tested during the course, and all sample collection and testing fees were waived.

Disaster Preparedness

Enhanced capacity to respond to a mass casualty incident has been achieved through infrastructure development and multi-agency mock disaster exercises. Mobile medical clinics have been equipped and remain ready to deploy where needed, and a proven network of community partners are poised to respond as a high-functioning team.

The Alachua Area Medical Reserve Corps contributed \$346,400 in medical and support services to the citizens of Alachua County.

Communicable Disease

Health outcomes have improved for people living with HIV/AIDS in Alachua County as a result of clinical care and case management. In our 15-county service area, 52% of people with HIV have a suppressed viral load – the highest percentage in the state. HIV-positive people with a suppressed viral load live longer, healthier lives and are 96% less likely to transmit the virus to someone else in the community.

The risk of exposure to tuberculosis (TB) has been reduced in Alachua County because of a 40% decrease in active TB cases since 2011. This can be credited to increased field activities and targeted use of resources through the Florida Tuberculosis System of Care in Alachua County.

Successful surveillance and response efforts by the Epidemiology Program in 2014 minimized and controlled outbreaks of diseases, including giardiasis, shigellosis, and salmonellosis. The Epidemiology Program identifies, assesses, and controls the presence and spread of over 90 communicable diseases.

Charged with controlling the spread of sexually transmitted infections, the Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Program contacted over 3,400 Alachua County residents to inform them of their exposure and offer treatment.

Control Flu” in Alachua County

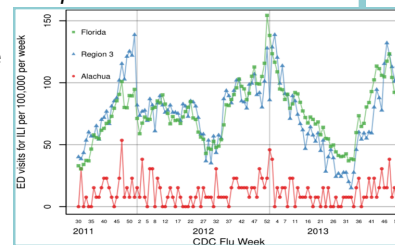
A partnership to save lives, reduce absenteeism, improve preparedness and protect our community’s most vulnerable from influenza

In Alachua County, the incidence of emergency room visits among 0-4 year-olds for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1/8 the rate in the rest of Florida. In 2014, 66 children age 4 and under reported to an emergency room (ER) with ILI, while the state trend would have brought that number to 484. The state trend called for 400 15-17 year-olds to report to an ER with ILI—instead there were 88.

FDOH-Alachua is leading the nation in the fight against influenza via an innovative partnership with Alachua County’s Public Schools and the University of Florida. In 2014, 60% of elementary

school children in Alachua County received the FluMist flu vaccine through school-located “Control Flu” clinics and private pediatricians. Those who were immunized had a 15% lower absenteeism rate than those who were not, and hospital visits for ILI were reduced among all age groups.

Control Flu also serves as a the platform for building an infrastructure that equips FDOH-Alachua with the ability to respond quickly and effectively to any vaccine-preventable disease threat. Through the annual mobilization of public health professionals, school teachers, nurses and administrators, and volunteers, this agency is solidly positioned to conduct mass immunization clinics in a response setting.



Florida Department of Health—Alachua County: Highlights

Dynamic Programs:

Florida's Healthiest Weight Initiative in Alachua County

Established in 2014, Healthiest Weight Florida is a public-private collaboration to help children and adults of Alachua County make informed choices about healthy eating and active living through educational outreach, community activities, and policy development.

DOH/DOC 340B Program

An HIV/STD screening and treatment program, the 340B program in Alachua County currently holds clinics in nine correctional institutions.

Minority AIDS Program

Charged with minority community mobilization against the spread of HIV/AIDS the program provided 17 mobilizing events in 2014. Fifty-one volunteers donated 7,000 hours to these and other efforts, including counselling/testing.

Counseling and Testing

Staff provided technical assistance to 20 community/faith based organizations that partner with FDOH-Alachua in counseling/testing for HIV/AIDS and STD's. In 2014, the program tested 7,062 Alachua County residents and visitors.

Case Management

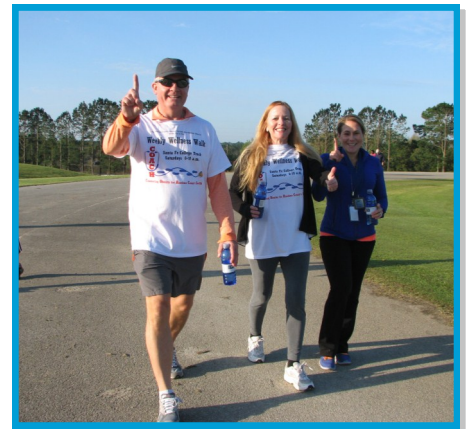
The Ryan White and Project AIDS Care HIV/AIDS case management programs assist with access to medical appointments, medicines, durable medical equipment, dental services, and other critical support for people living with HIV/AIDS. These programs provided 18,809 services to 889 clients in 2014.

Tobacco Free Alachua

Since 2008, the Tobacco Free Alachua program at FDOH-Alachua has promoted local policy and system change initiatives which reduce tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke for Alachua County residents.

Vital Statistics

The Vital Statistics department served 25,591 applicants in Alachua County for birth, death and fetal death records. Service was rendered from the two original locations in the FDOH-Alachua facilities located in Gainesville and the city of Alachua. As an added convenience, a partnership with the Alachua County Tax Collector makes it possible to obtain a Florida birth certificates from one of three tax collector offices. This allows citizens to get everything they may need in one stop.



A Robust Infrastructure:

The FDOH-Alachua Information Technology, Human Resources and Business Office departments support and facilitate all public health functions for a multiple-county consortium. This service structure provides cost savings and efficiencies gained from economies of scale, while maintaining a standard of excellence in customer care. Both the Information Technology and the Human Resources departments won 2014 Prudential Productivity Awards on the merit of service delivery and cost savings to tax payers.

The Business Office monitors the fiscal health of the agency, working with Administration to balance a budget of over 13 million dollars. Major sources of funding are Federal, State and County, while the largest expense line items include Direct Services, Disease Control, and Community Health.



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